

Systems Network (FEWS NET), which is supported by USAID, two areas of southern Somalia are already experiencing famine. Famine exists when at least 20 percent of the population has extremely limited access to basic food requirements, acute malnutrition exceeds 30 percent, and the death rate exceeds 2 out of every 10,000 people per day for the entire population. Death rates are above the famine threshold in two areas and are elevated across the south. Tens of thousands of people have already died in the past three months.

FEWS NET projects that famine will spread across all regions of southern Somalia within one to two months. The network estimates that 3.7 million people are in crisis nationwide, and 3.2 million of them require immediate, life-saving assistance. These severe conditions are expected to remain at least through December of this year. FEWS NET has declared this Africa's worst food security crisis since Somalia's 1991–1992 famine.

The effects of the drought in Somalia have been exacerbated by the lack of an effective central government and continuing conflict with al-Shabaab terrorists.

Drought has also affected Kenya and Ethiopia, where the situation is complicated by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Somalia, many of them suffering from acute malnutrition.

The U.S. Government has already spent a total of approximately \$458.7 million on humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa during fiscal year 2011. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued a statement on July 20th expressing concern on behalf of the U.S. Government. She noted that additional international assistance for the region is needed and announced an additional \$28 million in U.S. assistance to Somalia and Somali refugees in Kenya. However, more needs to be done. FEWS NET has called for an immediate, large-scale, and comprehensive response to save tens of thousands of lives.

I am deeply concerned that the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012, which was marked up yesterday, will not provide sufficient funds for critical priorities like these. The bill includes an 18 percent cut in development assistance, which funds projects such as food security and basic education. The bill also cuts international disaster assistance by 12 percent compared to the fiscal year 2011 level and a shocking 42 percent compared to the fiscal year 2010 level. Such drastically reduced funding levels will not allow the United States to help millions of people in need or respond to emergencies, such as famines, hurricanes and earthquakes.

I have seen children who were starving. It is a terrible sight to see. We cannot sit by idly and allow thousands of children to die and not take any action to help them. To do so would be contrary to our national interests and contrary to our values.

I call upon my colleagues and indeed all Americans to show compassion to our brothers and sisters in Africa. And I call upon the U.S. Government to organize a comprehensive effort to save the lives of millions of hungry people throughout the Horn of Africa.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF CRAIG PROSSER

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Craig Prosser, retiring city manager of Tigard, Oregon. Craig has announced his retirement at the end of July, capping a 35-year career of distinguished service to our community.

Craig began serving Tigard in 1999 as finance director, and since 2005, as city manager. Craig's accomplishments include the formation of the city's first urban renewal district, the Tigard-Lake Oswego Water Partnership, as well as major improvements along Pacific Highway. He also oversaw the opening of the Westside Express Service Commuter line that runs through Tigard. Craig's foresight helped to make Tigard an attractive place to live and do business. Because of his leadership, Tigard was able to retain crucial city services through one of the worst financial crises in our country's history.

Craig has been a consensus builder who has always focused on the needs of the citizens, and he has worked tirelessly to address their concerns. He has approached his work with integrity and a true sense of dedication while empowering staff and those around him. In his retirement announcement Craig said, "I would be willing to put the City of Tigard staff up against any public workforce in the state, if not the nation. The citizens of Tigard are fortunate to have such dedicated elected officials and public employees working on their behalf."

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." Craig Prosser truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his community better.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Craig for his outstanding service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE LANCE CORPORAL CODY JAMES ELLIOTT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor 21-year-old United States Marine Lance Corporal Cody James Elliott of Pismo Beach, California. On June 12, 2011, while out on patrol, LCPL Elliott ran to help his Brother in Arms, Josh McDaniels, who had been injured in an IED explosion. While en route to his fallen comrade—without regard for his own safety—LCPL Elliott was severely wounded by another IED explosion. Every day, magnificent men such as Cody shine on the battlefields of honor, bringing their light of heroism and selflessness to the darkness of war—making us all proud to be Americans. In the blast, LCPL Cody lost his left leg, broke his tibia in his right leg, and lost one of his fingers. In just a

few short weeks, he has come a long way in dealing with his wounds and is moving full speed towards recovery. With the help of his family, he continues to recover and show us what it means to bravely serve our country. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RUN TO ME

(By Albert Caswell)

Run . . .
Run to me . . .
On battlefields of honor bright . . .
There are but all of those who so carry the fight!
All with their most magnificent light! To win that day, to that night!
Who so shine, all in their most sacrificial light . . .
Who for all of their Brothers In Arms, are but so ready to die!
All in the blood that binds them, this most sacrificial tie!
Which brings such tears to the Angel's eyes!
As it was on the day in June, when Cody you so ran . . . as your heart so swooned!
As your Brother Josh lay dying, as you ran to him . . . not asking why then!
All in your most magnificent shades of green, oh yea you United States Marine!
As when that bomb went off, as you lie there in all its cost . . .
All in what you had given, all in what you had lost!
As the tears rolled down your face, all in what this war had brought!
As up ahead but lie a new front . . .
Only twenty-one years old, and barely hanging on . . .
As it was then there you so saw you had a choice!
As you told yourself, get up Marine . . . while listening to your most inner voice!
As from deep down within, but came such a force!
As now Cody, your new life would so begin . . .
With that first step, all in that pain and heartache which lie so up ahead . . .
As somehow, you lifted up your fine head and so said!
I did not die, I am not dead! As you so chose to feel that wind upon your face . . .
All for your Fallen Brothers, all in your heart they now so hold such a special place!
For you've got a life to live, as now you picked up the pace!
A life to lead, as it's now Cody you've so chosen to move at light speed!
For you are a United States Marine, all in what your recovery has so seen . . .
You see, people like you Cody . . . so give to us all what we so need!
Because, You So Teach Us! And You So Beseech Us!
As so deep down inside, You So Reach Us!
With all of your most courageous faith, You So Speak To Us Out On Our Ways!
For you will run, and you will breathe . . . and oh yea Cody you will so succeed!
And if I ever, I so have a son . . . I pray that he may be as courageous as you my son . . .
Whose heart to me so runs! Because, Cody in heaven you need not arms or legs, and that's where you are going one day . . .
And, you will hear our Lord so say, "Cody, Run To Me!"
All for what you gave, Run To Me!

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE
HARPER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Diane Harper on her upcoming retirement. After working for Northrop Grumman for almost 23 years, Diane's last day with the company will be July 29, 2011. Having over 40 years of defense-related experience, her career has taken her from the House Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the Department of the Navy. Also at the Northrop Grumman Corporation, she was primarily responsible for acting as the liaison between the United States Congress and the Corporation with regard to legislation relevant to the company and national defense issues.

Diane, and her husband, Mike Harper, have been very encouraging to me and my wife Roxanne during my Congressional service. We appreciate their friendship and wish her Godspeed in the next stage of her life.

IN HONOR OF JAKE FISHER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jake Fisher of Portageville, Missouri for his years of service to the University of Missouri Delta Center. The people of my congressional district, the state of Missouri, and Missouri's flagship University are forever grateful for Jake's contributions and commitment to making the Delta Center what it is today, a world-renowned research facility we can all be extremely proud of.

The Delta Center has grown to be the jewel of the University of Missouri land grant system under Jake's leadership. This is a testament to Jake and the dedicated staff and faculty he works with on a daily basis. Every time I visit the Delta Center, I am encouraged by the work I see and what it means for the future of agriculture and our state.

Jake's leadership has been critical in providing the faculty and staff with the vision and necessary resources to discover new solutions, address needs for our state and help the welfare of our citizens through scientific advancement in agriculture. His forward thinking has been instrumental in the Delta Center making great advancements which will lead the future and keep our agricultural producers on the frontline in meeting the challenge of feeding a growing world population.

Not only is the Delta Center a world renowned research facility, it also remains an integral part of the community in Southeast Missouri. Jake has worked to forge a strong partnership between local communities, area producers, the entire Southeast Missouri region and the Delta Center. These partnerships make the Delta Center a special place for the people of Southeast Missouri and have contributed to its successes over the years.

Everybody back in Missouri knows Jake outside of his role at the Delta Center as a self-

less member of the community. Whenever there has been a disaster or other challenge facing the community, Jake always lends a helping hand to neighbors in need. When a historic ice storm struck our area in 2009, cutting off power and heating to our residents during the coldest part of the year, Jake was one of the first to step up and help the community by opening up part of the Delta Center as a warming center where many of the utility crews were fed as they worked to restore power.

As Jake steps back from his leadership role at the Delta Center, I am certain the center will be in good hands. However, it will be a difficult transition for many, including me, as he has personified leadership for the Delta Center over the years. It is hard to think of the Delta Center without Jake Fisher.

More than anything, I appreciate having Jake's friendship; and I look forward to keeping it for years to come.

Congratulations, Jake, on a job well done and best wishes for you and Shelly as you enter a new and exciting part of your lives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the House's need to reduce the deficit and cut back on spending. Tightening our belts is something we need to do. However, these cuts should be targeted—with a doctor's scalpel instead of a machete—so that we do not collapse the economy that we are trying so hard to build up. Unfortunately, the Interior bill we are currently debating is the work of a machete. This bill cuts or eliminates funding for countless programs that exist to help communities—including the Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Programs and the Office of Sustainable Communities.

The EPA Office of Sustainable Communities is part of an inter-agency partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was established to provide a resource for communities who need technical assistance to plan for economic growth and development and account for a changing population.

The services offered by the EPA Sustainable Communities Office are in high demand—they have been able to assist only 9% of interested communities due to budget and time constraints. Since 2005, over 1,300 communities have requested assistance from the EPA; 122 have been assisted, all for a total of \$4.5 million.

This is a program that helps local governments expand their economic development options and make their communities more at-

tractive to business and local citizens. The EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities works with HUD and DOT to make government better at helping communities develop housing, transportation and energy efficiency plans. This partnership removes barriers and cuts bureaucratic red tape, which means more efficient investments.

My home state of Missouri is already benefiting from the work of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Last fall, my district of Kansas City received a \$4.5 million grant from the Partnership. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant brings together assistance from HUD, DOT, and EPA to study six development corridors that connect 30 communities to Kansas City's urban core and coordinate housing, transportation and environmental protection along these corridors. The Kansas City region also received a \$50 million TIGER grant for investments in regional transit corridors, additional transit centers, bus stop improvements, as well as sidewalk, street, and transit improvements in the city's Green Impact Zone in the urban core.

Kansas City also received a grant that will support outreach and production of a handbook of tools and incentives designed to facilitate the redevelopment of older commercial brownfield sites in urban and suburban locations throughout the city. Commercial brownfield sites often include contamination and can be challenging to redevelopment in suburban communities.

The first phase of the project will inventory the tools, incentives, and techniques available locally to create smart growth designs and revitalize brownfields. Research will then be performed on relevant national models and best practices in these fields. A handbook will be compiled containing information on smart growth techniques for brownfield commercial sites that can cut development costs, offer unique amenities, and respond to environmental impacts. It will also highlight relevant brownfield incentives, tools, and strategies.

A design workshop will be conducted for two local, commercial brownfield sites, one urban and one suburban. The results of the workshop will be incorporated into the handbook, which will be presented at a series of roundtable events held for developers, landowners, and others involved in the redevelopment process. The project will actively seek input from the community on methods to make commercial site reuse attractive and to determine the needs of communities near commercial brownfield sites. The results may be used to suggest improvements to city codes and policies to encourage reuse and smart growth design of brownfield sites. This project will help balance regional growth in urban and suburban locations through marketing assistance for both areas, and encourage mixed-use redevelopment to better meet community service and housing needs.

Additionally, Missouri's capital, Jefferson City, has received EPA assistance to improve an area in the city core that serves as the gateway to the State Capitol and the larger Capital Complex.

Smart Growth projects similar to the projects I highlighted in Missouri are in 200 communities and almost all 50 states. Seven members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee have at least one Sustainable Communities project in their district. These programs within EPA, HUD, and DOT provide